TAFOYA SAYS CIA ORDERED HIM TO LIBYAN'S APARTMENT

FORT COLLINS, COLO. (UPI) -- A FORMER GREEN BERET CHARGED WITH
ATTEMPTED MURDER SAID WEDNESDAY HE VISITED A LIBYAN DISSIDENT LAST
YEAR UNDER ORDERS FROM THE CIA AND ONLY FIRED AT THE OTHER MAN IN
SELF-DEFENSE.

AN INTERVIEW AIRED ON CBS NEWS WEDNESDAY MARKED THE FIRST TIME
EUGENE TAFOYA, 47, HAS AGREED TO TALK ABOUT HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE
SHOOTING LAST OCTOBER OF FAISAL ZAGALLAI.

SOME AUTHORITIES BELIEVE TAFOYA WAS WORKING FOR THE LIBYAN
GOVERNMENT ON A MISSION TO SILENCE DISSIDENTS OF COL. MOAMMAR
KHADAFY'S REGIME WHO ARE LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES.

TAFOYA SAID HE WAS ACTUALLY WORKING FOR THE CIA WHEN HE WENT TO
ZAGALLAI'S APARTMENT TO DELIVER A MESSAGE "NOT IN ANY WAY CONNECTED
WITH AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT." HE DID NOT SAY WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS.

HE SAID ZAGALLAI REACHED FOR A GUN AND FIRED ONE SHOT AT HIM
BEFORE HE SHOT BACK IN SELF-DEFENSE. THE COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE STUDENT WAS SHOT TWICE IN THE HEAD AT CLOSE RANGE.

ZAGALLAI LOST THE SIGHT IN ONE EYE AND CARRIES A .22-CALIBER SLUG
IN HIS PALATE FROM THE ATTACK.

TAFOYA, BEING HELD IN THE FORT COLLINS JAIL AWAITING TRIAL ON A
CHARGE OF ATTEMPTED MURDER, SAID HE APPLIED TO THE CIA IN MAY 1976.
ACCORDING TO HIS STORY, HE WAS HIRED BY A MAN WHO WAS FAMILIAR WITH
HIS MILITARY RECORD AND SHOWED CIA CREDENTIALS.

ASKED IF HE BELIEVED ALL ALONG HE WAS WORKING FOR THE CIA, TAFOYA
SAID, "THIS IS WHAT I UNDERSTAND, YES."

THE CIA DENIES TAFOYA EVER WAS EMPLOYED BY THE AGENCY.

THE DRAWN, SLIGHTLY OVERWEIGHT MAN FROM TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES,
N.M., ADMITTED HE WENT TO LIBYA TO HELP FORMER FBI AGENT EDWIN
WILSON TRAIN LIBYAN SOLDIERS. BUT TAFOYA SAID HE WAS ALSO SPYING ON
WILSON AND LIBYA AT THE TIME AND WAS REPORTING HIS FINDINGS REGULARLY
TO THE CIA.

TAFOYA SAID WILSON STILL OWES HIM $36,000 FOR HIS WORK IN LIBYA.
HE ALSO SAID HE FEELS 'ABANDONED' BY THE CIA AND, IN RETROSPECT,
WOULD NOT ACCEPT A CIA JOB IF IT WERE OFFERED TO HIM AGAIN.

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